

Appl. No: 09/417,016

Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2004

Attorney Docket: P63935US0

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 11, 13 – 15, 18 – 19 and 28 – 33, added new Claims 34 – 35, and cancelled Claims 10 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11, 13 – 15, 18 – 19 and 28 – 33 have been amended to overcome the rejection and further specify the embodiments of the present invention. The new Claims 34 – 35 have been added to specify different embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended and newly added claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 13, 15 – 20, 28, 29 and 31 – 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ishida et al. (US 6,069,609), hereinafter Ishida.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. At first, Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection to this claim is moot. In addition, Claim 13 has been amended to a more specified embodiment of the present invention. The support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, Figs. 17 and 18. Claim 18 is similarly amended. The method Claim 29 corresponds to Claim 13. According to the amended Claim 13, the generator 13 generates a plurality of first dither coefficients pattern signals, as illustrated in Figs. 18, 19 and 20. Each first dither coefficients pattern signal is selected from a plurality of predetermined dither coefficients pattern signals in accordance with the detected color gradation level of each dot data of the (n x m) matrix pattern. Each generated first dither coefficients pattern signal carries dither coefficients arranged in the (n x m) matrix pattern. The selector 33 selects one of the dither coefficients from each generated first dither coefficients pattern signal. Each

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dither coefficient thus selected corresponding, in position, to each dot data in the (n x m) matrix pattern, as illustrated with as dot circle in Figs. 21 and 22. The selector 33 combines dither coefficients thus selected from all of the generated first dither coefficients pattern signals, as illustrated s the center matrix in Figs 21 and 22, thus producing a second dither coefficients pattern signal carrying the selected and combined dither coefficients arranged in the (n x m) matrix pattern as illustrated as the matrix labeled OUTPUT DITHER COEFFICIENTS in Figs. 21 or 22. The adjuster 34 adjusts the dither coefficients of the second dither coefficients pattern signal so that the sum total of the dither coefficients of the second dither coefficients pattern signal is zero, as illustrated in Fig. 23, thus producing a third dither coefficients pattern signal carrying the adjusted coefficients. The adder 35 adds the third dither coefficient-adjusted pattern signal to the input video signal, thus operating a video signal carrying the dot data to be supplied to the display panel. Ishida fails to teach the features as described above.

Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Ishida and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 10 - 12, 14 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Ishida in view of Sakano (US 5,144,456), hereinafter Sakano.

Applicant traverses the rejection. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the presently claimed invention, the rejection has been overcome. At first, Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection to this claim is moot. In addition, Claim 11 has been amended to include "a generator to generate a plurality of dither coefficient signals, each coefficient signal carrying dither coefficients arranged in a matrix, weighting being applied to each dither coefficient for components of the input video signal each having a gradation level equal to or lower than a predetermined level in

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which the weighting to be applied becomes larger as the gradation level of each components becomes lower" and "an adder to add one of the coefficient signals to the components of the input video signal, thus outputting a video signal." Claim 11 is supported by the specification, especially FIG. 17. According to the amended Claim 11, weighting is applied to each dither coefficient for components of the input video signal, each having a gradation level equal to or lower than a predetermined level in which the weighting to be applied becomes larger as the gradation level of each component becomes lower (page 26, lines 18 and 19, and page 30, lines 18 and 19).

The Examiner recognizes that Ishida fails to expressly teach the lower gradation level, the larger the weighing. Applicant respectfully submits that Sakano also fails to disclose the feature. According to Sakano, a relatively small weighing factor is given the gradation level of a pixel far from the pixel of concern which is located at the center of the matrix (col. 7, lines 1 and 2). In other words, Sakano teaches weighing according to the location of pixels on the matrix, not according to the gradation level of an input video signal as claimed.

In addition, Claims 14 and 30 include the features of the amended Claims 13 and 29, which are different from the disclosure in the Ishida as described above.

Therefore, nowhere in prior art has suggestion or incentive to combine Ishida and Sakano to achieve the invention as currently claimed. One of ordinary skilled in the art would not discern the present invention at the time of its invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

DRAWINGS:

It is respectfully submitted that Fig. 22 has been amended to correct certain clerical errors. It is respectfully submitted that there is sufficient support for the amended Fig. 22 in the specification, especially the descriptions at page 31, line 35 through page 32, line 36 of the specification. More specifically, in the original Fig. 22, the coefficient

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"-1" in the matrix labelled should GRADATION 57 is erroneously surrounded by a dot circle. The coefficient "1" should be surrounded by a dot circle according to the disclosure in page 32, lines 33 and 34. Moreover, in the original Fig. 22, the coefficient "-3" in the matrix labelled OUTPUT DITHER COEFFICIENTS is unnecessarily surrounded by a dot circle. The unnecessary dot circle should be omitted according to the disclosure in page 32, lines 35 ad 36. Fig. 22 should have been drawn in the same manner as Figs. 12, 13 and 21. This is clearly a clerical error. It is respectfully submitted that there is no new matter introduced by the amendment.

INFROMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMMENT:

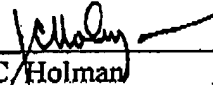
The Examiner failed to indicate that Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) submitted by Applicant on July 12, 2000 has been received and considered. Submitted herewith are copies of IDS transmittal, PTO Form 1449 and the related date stamped postcard for Examiner's reference and consideration.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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